

## Fremont Oak Gardens Wins Helen Putnam Award for Excellence

In October, the 2005 Helen Putnam Award for Excellence winners were unveiled at the League of California Cities 107th Annual Conference in San Francisco. Established in 1982, this annual Award recognizes outstanding efforts and innovations by city governments to improve the quality of life or to implement efficiencies in service delivery or operations to the local community.



Fremont Oak Gardens, a 50-unit apartment rental community for seniors, was awarded an Award for Excellence in the Housing Programs and Innovations category. This new development, which opened in the summer, is located at 2681 Driscoll

Road in Irvington. It features one-bedroom apartment homes that include special amenities designed to meet the needs of hearing-impaired seniors.

The City of Fremont and the Redevelopment Agency assisted the development by issuing a \$4.4 million loan using the Agency's affordable housing loan funds. For more information, contact Housing and Redevelopment Manager Bill Cooper at [bcooper@ci.fremont.ca.us](mailto:bcooper@ci.fremont.ca.us) or 494-4500.

## Happy Birthday Fremont! City of Fremont Turns 50 in 2006

The City of Fremont is celebrating its 50th Birthday in January!



On January 23, 1956, the City of Fremont officially came into existence when the towns of Centerville, Irvington, Mission San Jose, Niles, and Warm Springs incorporated with a population of 22,443. Fremont's first City Council meeting was held one day later on January 24, 1956 at 12:01 a.m. At that meeting,

Fremont's first ordinance as an official city was adopted. Now, 50 years later and a population of more than 210,000, let the celebrations begin!

*Please join us for a reception and ceremonial Council meeting at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday morning, January 24, 2006 at City Hall, City Council Chambers, 3300 Capitol Avenue, Building A.*

For more information, contact the City's Patrice Jamison at [pjamison@ci.fremont.ca.us](mailto:pjamison@ci.fremont.ca.us) or 284-4007.

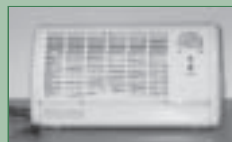
A series of events are also planned throughout the year including "Celebrate Fremont @ the Park" scheduled for September 9-10, 2006 in Central Park. This event is being planned by a community-based committee that has formed to help observe and celebrate Fremont's 50th anniversary next year.

To learn more about getting involved, visit the event's website at [www.celebratefremont.org](http://www.celebratefremont.org).

### Inside This Issue



**Hurricane Relief**  
3



**Heater Safety Tips**  
4



**Winter Home Tips**  
5



**Holiday Recycling**  
7

## City Manager's Message



We are engaged in an ambitious public outreach and communications effort designed to hear from you, Fremont's residents and business community, about your priorities, needs, and ideas for addressing the

City's fiscal and community service challenges. Earlier this year, I convened an Ad-Hoc Community Task Force to be an informal sounding board for us. I want this group to offer suggestions for how the City can best interact and communicate with the Fremont community.

I am excited about the launch of our Community Speakers Bureau Program, the next phase of this effort. Members of the Community Task Force are conducting presentations to a wide array of diverse community groups and stakeholders, with the goal of assessing neighborhood priorities and evaluating community feedback.

We have already received fantastic response to our initial outreach — more than 2,500 citizens responded to a mailer asking questions about essential City services. Now, with our Speakers Bureau, we are seeking person-to-person feedback from people who are active in Fremont. In addition, we want an opportunity to inform people about some of the issues our City is facing right now. This effort allows us to really engage in a dialogue about

critical issues.

As so many of you know, in the last several years Fremont has been forced to make drastic cuts in many essential services. The City will be unable to maintain current services without additional funds. In just the last three years, the City has made significant reductions to such important City services as road repairs and maintenance, crime prevention programs, senior services, fire safety, and parks and recreation programs. These kinds of cuts put the long-term health of our community at risk.

These are serious issues, requiring real community participation in finding the right solution for our residents, and for our City. What do you want Fremont to be? What do you think is important for our City? These are the questions we're asking our community.

Your help is essential. Please take the time to let us know what you think. Contact Intergovernmental Relations Manager Lisa Goldman at 284-4012 or outreach@ci.fremont.ca.us if you would like a presentation at your organization's meeting, or if you would like more information about our efforts to develop solutions to our fiscal challenges.

*Fred*  
Fred Diaz  
City Manager

## Did You Know...?

### Protect Yourself from Fraud this Holiday Season

Fraud during the holiday period often revolves around false charities. Senior citizens and citizens with limited English literacy are generally the primary targets for unscrupulous operators. Give generously but carefully, selecting charities that are well known in the community. Before making a donation over the phone, ask that the charity send information to you in the mail first. If you suspect a fraudulent charity, contact the Fremont Police Department at 790-6800.

### Curious About a City Recreation Class?

#### "Try-It!" Class Pass Now Available

Discover a new interest without risking a lot! Now you can sample a class to see if it's the right fit for you. Using our Try-It! class pass, register for any class in the Recreation Guide that displays the **TRY-IT!** symbol for only \$5. If it's love at first "try" after the first class meeting, you then pay for the rest of the course and your \$5 will be credited toward the remaining registration fee. If you don't wish to continue, you have no further obligation. For more information, contact the Recreation Division at 494-4300 or visit our registration website at [www.regerec.com](http://www.regerec.com).

### Listing of Fremont Restaurants

#### Free Copies Now Available

Contact the Office of Economic Development at 284-4020 or send an email to [econdev@ci.fremont.ca.us](mailto:econdev@ci.fremont.ca.us) for your free copy. Copies are also available by visiting the City's website at [www.fremont.gov/Business/RetailAndRestaurants](http://www.fremont.gov/Business/RetailAndRestaurants).



### City of Fremont

The City Council meets the first, second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 3300 Capitol Avenue. (Work sessions are held on the third Tuesday of each month, times vary.) Meetings are broadcast over Cable TV Channel 27 or webcast online at [www.fremont.gov/CityHall/Webcasts](http://www.fremont.gov/CityHall/Webcasts).

#### City Council

Bob Wasserman, Mayor

Steve Cho, Vice Mayor

Dominic Dutra, Bob Wieckowski, Anu Natarajan

#### City Manager

Fred Diaz

#### Fremont City News

Cheryl Golden, Managing Editor

*Fremont City News* is printed on recycled paper with soy inks.

#### City Address, Phone Number, and Website

3300 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 5006, Fremont CA 94537 ~ (510) 284-4000 ~ [www.fremont.gov](http://www.fremont.gov)

# City Hall News

## City Assists Hurricane Relief Efforts

Like many communities around the country, Fremont is helping in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

The Fremont Fire Department sent personnel to the hurricane zone immediately after Katrina struck. Thirteen firefighters and two canine search dogs went to the Gulf Coast, where they conducted search and rescue operations, helped with recovery efforts, and aided local officials. Fremont firefighters also rescued numerous people from flooded sections of New Orleans.

In early September, 11 families from the hurricane zone who had relocated here contacted the City for assistance. The City Council approved using \$40,000 in unallocated federal Community Development Block Grant funds to secure housing and meet other immediate needs of these families. A fundraiser at the Center Theater raised an additional \$6,000, and local service clubs and landlords have also offered help.

Although Katrina hit far away, its effects have been felt here. We will continue to do our part to help people from the Gulf Coast recover.



*Fremont firefighters rescued numerous people from flood stricken New Orleans.*

## Fire Bond Report Card

Fire Station	Within Budget?	On Time?	Status
Ardenwood Mission San Jose Stevenson Court Warm Springs	Yes	Yes	Minor seismic retrofits completed on these stations.
Central Grimmer Irvington	Yes	Yes	Major remodels of these stations. Irvington is finished and others are being drawn up.
Centerville Niles North Fremont	Yes	Yes	New fire stations. Construction started on Centerville station; others are being drawn up.
Training Center	Yes	Yes	Considering where to build it; rough plans are being drawn up.

## Flood Risk, Flooding, and Flood Insurance in Fremont

The hurricane season of 2005 has been the worst ever for our nation. Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Wilma, and others have caused billions of dollars worth of property damage. The majority of the damage was by flooding, which is the most common natural disaster in the United States.

Fremont is safer from flooding than the Gulf Coast region, but areas within Fremont are identified as being at risk for flooding. In Fremont, the at risk areas are near the San Francisco Bay and along the creeks and channels. These areas are called special flood hazard areas (SFHA). To get secured financing to buy, build, or improve structures in a SFHA, you will be required to purchase flood insurance. Lending institutions that are federally regulated or federally insured must determine if a structure is in a SFHA.

**Flood Insurance Questions:** In 1983, Fremont became a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and in 2000, received a Community Rating System (CRS) rating of 7. This CRS rating provides a 15% discount on flood insurance policies for properties in a SFHA. To learn if your property is in a flood hazard area, or if you have questions about flood insurance, contact the City's Engineering Division:

- 💧 In person at 39550 Liberty Street
- 💧 By phone at 494-4718
- 💧 By email at [floodinfo@ci.fremont.ca.us](mailto:floodinfo@ci.fremont.ca.us)

You can also visit the official NFIP website at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) for more information.

# Our Community

## Volunteer During Tax Season

Looking for a volunteer opportunity, but don't want to make a long-term commitment? Then VITA—Volunteer Income Tax Assistance—might be for you! Volunteers receive training, and then volunteer during tax season to help low-income taxpayers claim credits and deductions.

Last year, Fremont volunteers helped 628 local families claim \$468,000 in Earned Income Tax Credits. Without VITA, many working families would not claim their credit due to language barriers and the complexity of the forms.

For more information, contact VITA Coordinator Shalini Mongia at [VITA@ci.fremont.ca.us](mailto:VITA@ci.fremont.ca.us) or 574-2290.

## Suggestions Gathered at Seniors Community Dialogues Prove Useful

Hundreds of Tri-City residents recently shared ideas about what's working and what's not for older adults. Representatives from government, business, non-profits, and faith communities joined seniors in two "Community Dialogues" to hear what elders had to say about improving their lives.

Ideas ranged from setting traffic signals for longer pedestrian crossing times to providing seniors with more meaningful volunteer opportunities.

The Tri-City Elder Coalition and the City of Fremont Human Services Department sponsored the events, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The two organizations will now seek additional funds to develop and set in motion a 10-year Senior Action Plan for the Tri-Cities.

For more information, contact Project Coordinator Asha Chandra at [achandra@ci.fremont.ca.us](mailto:achandra@ci.fremont.ca.us) or 574-2055.

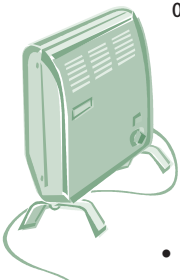
## Portable Heater Safety Tips

Each fall as temperatures drop, the Fremont Fire Department responds to preventable structure fires caused by unsafe heating practices. The inappropriate use of outside heating devices, such as **propane heaters** in enclosed areas, should be avoided. These heaters, as well as other fuel burning ones, are dangerous for inside use due to the following reasons:

- They can produce dangerous levels of toxic combustion products such as carbon monoxide.
- They burn oxygen and decrease oxygen for residents to breathe.
- They are a heat source and can start fires or cause burns.
- Compressed flammable gases or flammable liquids can leak or emit fumes, which create an explosion hazard.
- Leaking fuel vapors can build up in an enclosed area and asphyxiate the occupants.



Additionally, the use of **portable heaters** can be hazardous. If you insist on using one in your home, please follow this advice from the Fremont Fire Department:



- Use only an electrical portable heater that is Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) approved for indoor use.
  - Do not leave an operating portable heater unattended.
  - Make sure that the heater has a tip-over safety switch.
- Place the heater on the floor far away from combustible objects.
- Refer to the directions that were shipped with your heating unit for specific information.

The high cost of home heating can be better managed by safe, efficient conservation efforts. Your home heating system should be serviced on a regular basis and kept in good working order. Unsafe heating is a poor bargain when you consider the risks you are taking with the lives and prosperity of your family.

For more information, contact the Fremont Fire Department at 494-4285.

## New Paratransit Vans Hit the Streets

Thanks to an \$85,000 grant from Caltrans, the City's Paratransit Program put two new vans into service in November. The vans will carry seniors and disabled individuals to medical appointments, grocery stores and other local destinations. Housing complexes, nursing homes, and other organizations serving the elderly and disabled will also be able to use the vans for group outings.

For more information, contact the Paratransit Program's Monica Gloria at [mgloria@ci.fremont.ca.us](mailto:mgloria@ci.fremont.ca.us) or 574-2053.



**Paratransit Program Manager Shawn Fong and Frances Buffone, program participant, are some of the first people to board the new paratransit vans.**



# Neighborhoods

## Shop Fremont for those Special Gifts

Shop Fremont this Holiday Season! Whether you are looking for a distinctive gift to mark a special occasion or plan to go on an extensive shopping spree, Fremont is the place to shop. Visit our unique business and shopping districts (Centerville, Downtown, Irvington, Mission San Jose, Niles, Pacific Commons, and Warm Springs). Stroll through the stores and shopping centers in your own neighborhood.

Shopping in Fremont also helps support the Fremont business community and provides needed revenue for City programs and services. For every dollar you spend in Fremont, the City receives 1 cent of sales tax. The rest of the 8.75% tax goes to the State and other agencies. Every penny helps. Shop Fremont!

## Centerville, Niles Redevelopment Project Updates

The **Centerville Market Place** project is completing the building permit process and should be under construction in the Spring of 2006. The project includes 58,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space and 110 townhome-style condominium units. The complex should be completed in late 2007.

The City Council, acting as the Redevelopment Agency Board, approved the conceptual site plan of the **Niles Town Plaza** in July 2005. Recently it also approved additional design features and refinements to the plan, finalizing the design phase of the project. Environmental clean-up work should begin on the site by late-2006 and it is expected that construction of the Plaza should be completed by 2008.

## Great News for First Time Homebuyers

The City of Fremont has brand new 2 bedroom, 3 bedroom and 4 bedroom homes available for \$284,900, \$316,400 and \$341,950 respectively. How is the City able to offer brand new homes at these prices? Under the City's Inclusionary Housing Ordinance, all new residential developments of seven or more units must set aside at least 15% of the homes to be sold at below market rate.

Simply complete our homeownership workshop in order to be eligible to participate in a lottery to purchase one of these homes. The next lottery conducted by the City of Fremont for First Time Homebuyers will occur:

**Lottery Date:** April 14, 2006

**Development:** Capistrano, 2 bedroom townhomes - 4 units, (Mission Boulevard/Washington Boulevard)

**Sale Price:** \$274,900 (negotiated from \$284,900)

Register today for the City's Homeownership Workshop. Workshops are held every Tuesday evening and seating is limited. For a complete schedule and workshop location, visit the City's website at [www.fremont.gov/Community/Housing/FTHB](http://www.fremont.gov/Community/Housing/FTHB) or call 494-4500 to register.

## Prepare for the Big Storm before It Hits

### Winter Readiness Tips

It was a dark and stormy night... sound familiar? Rather than chase your patio umbrella around the backyard in the pouring rain, how about doing a little home preparation now?

Here are some helpful tips from the City's Streets Maintenance and Urban Landscape crews:

1. Remove and store patio furniture, especially umbrellas and other loose items so they do not become airborne and cause damage to you or your home.
2. Be ready for an unexpected loss of power. Keep candles and matches nearby and stock up on batteries for your flashlights.
3. Remember to keep at least a half tank of gas in your automobile.
4. When a major storm is forecast, check your nearest storm drain and make sure the grate on top of the opening is clear, and the gutter in front of your property is free of trash and excessive leaves.
5. If gutters back up and the problem is still not evident, call 979-5700 and ask to have the Streets crews check it out.
6. If your tree, located in the City right-of-way, experiences broken limbs or becomes unstable, call 979-5700. The only time privately owned trees/branches are addressed by City crews is when they obstruct the right-of-way on the property. Please note: if a tree/branch falls on a vehicle or structure and causes damage, if reasonable, try not to move the tree/branch before City crews arrive.

When a big storm hits, Maintenance crews respond to the most severe situations first. Your patience will be greatly appreciated when that happens.



# e n v i r o n m e n

## Wrap with Basics this Holiday Season

With the holiday season upon us, consider adding creative and safe packaging ideas to your holiday "To Do" list.

While wrapping paper may not readily jump to mind as a water pollutant, it can have a serious impact when burned. Particulates and other harmful pollutants such as lead and chromium are released when wrapping paper is burned. Once in the air, rain carries these pollutants to roadways and other surfaces into waterways.

If you do use wrapping paper, please remember to reuse or recycle it. It is a gift for the environment to save your holiday paper to wrap presents again next year or to put non-metallic paper into the recycling bin. Also consider using festive alternatives to traditional wrapping paper such as those listed to the right. Not only are the alternatives attractive, many of them can also be reused for other purposes. Happy Holidays!



## Garbage Ordinance Reminder

To ensure the public health, sanitation, and the safety and welfare of Fremont residents, the City adopted a Garbage Ordinance on February 25, 1995. The Ordinance includes such items as:

- Recycling, yard waste/organics and garbage containers (carts) shall be removed from the curbside within 24 hours of collection.
- Recycling, yard waste/organics and garbage containers (carts) shall be stored out of view from public streets.
- Materials, containers (carts) or bulky items shall not be set out for collection before 6:00 a.m. on the day before scheduled collection.
- Garbage and other materials shall not be dumped into other resident's garbage, recycling or yard waste/organics containers (carts).
- Residential curbside collection service is required for all Fremont residents.

If you have any questions, please contact the Environmental Services Division at 494-4570.



## Some alternatives to traditional wrapping paper:

**Tissue Paper:** wrap gifts with festive tissue paper, complementing them with ribbons and bows.

**Newspaper Comics:** use the funnies to make the recipient laugh before opening – recyclable, too!

**Grocery/Shopping Bags:** decorate with colorful stamps and wrap with exotic bows and flowers.

**Holiday Tins:** fill with festive holiday treats.

**Cloth Napkins or Scarves:** place your gift in a holiday scarf or napkin and use a bow to hold it together.

**Plastic Containers:** package the gift of food easily and then the recipient can reuse it for holiday treats.

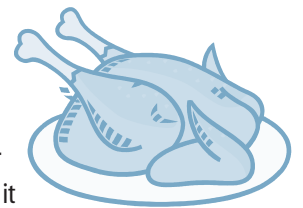
**Baskets:** place your gift in a basket and use bright bows.

**Reusable Gift Bags:** save bags you've received and pass them along to someone new.

**Tin Foil:** get into the holiday spirit and use silver wrapping with gold ribbon.

## Extra Holiday Food and Grease?

If you have food scraps from the preparation of meals or leftover plate scrapings, why not give the Earth a present! You can place food scraps (vegetables, meat, bones, etc.) and food-soiled paper (pizza boxes, napkins, paper towels, etc.) in your green organics cart. After it is picked up by Allied/BFI, it will be turned into valuable compost and given away in the spring at Fremont's Compost Give Away event.



Need to get rid of that leftover grease from turkey frying? You can take it to the Allied/BFI Service Center located at 42600 Boyce Road in Fremont. For more information on either program, call Allied/BFI at 657-3500 or visit the City's website at [www.fremont.gov/Environment](http://www.fremont.gov/Environment).

## New Local Reuse Directory Available Online

Looking for a place to donate one of your prized possessions? Look no further than the City's website.

A new Reuse Directory has been created, providing a list of non-profit organizations in the Tri-Cities and South Bay area that accept donated items for reuse. Our special thanks to two Fremont residents who made it happen- one resident came up with the idea and researched the information and the other resident designed the directory for the website. To access the directory, visit the City's website at

[www.fremont.gov/Environment/ReuseAndDonations](http://www.fremont.gov/Environment/ReuseAndDonations).

# tree services

## Holiday Tree Recycling: Easy, Convenient

Each year Fremont residents buy thousands of holiday trees that might end up in landfills if they are not properly recycled. Cut holiday trees including those with flocking or fire-retardant are recyclable if they are free of all decorations, tinsel, nails, and tree stands (including the wooden kind, nailed to the bottom of the trunk).

There are three different ways you can recycle your cut holiday tree in Fremont:

### 1. Allied/BFI Curbside Pick-up Service

**Who:** Fremont residents who have curbside recycling and garbage service with Allied/BFI.

**When:** December 26, 2005 through January 6, 2006 on your scheduled collection day.

**Cost:** There is no extra charge for this service.

**How:** No need to call to request this service – just leave your tree out using one of the following methods:

#### A. Green Organics Cart

- Cut recyclable tree so pieces fit loosely in your organics cart with the lid closed.
- Place the cart at the curb on your scheduled collection day.

#### B. Gutter

- If your tree is less than six feet in length, place the whole tree in the gutter on your collection day.
- If your tree is over six feet in length, cut the tree in half and place both halves in the gutter on your collection day.
- Please make sure your tree is in the gutter, not on the sidewalk.
- Please make sure your tree is free of all decorations when placed in the gutter; this helps keep our storm drains litter free.

#### C. Garbage Cart

*(Please use this only as the last option. Recycle your tree first, if possible.)*

- For a non-recyclable tree, please cut it up so pieces fit loosely in your garbage cart with the lid closed.
- Place the cart at the curb on your scheduled collection day.

### 2. Drop-off at Allied/BFI Customer Service Center

**Who:** All Fremont residents (whether you have curbside service or not).

**When:** December 26, 2005 through January 31, 2006 (Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

**Cost:** Recyclable trees may be dropped off for free; there is a \$5 charge to drop off a non-recyclable tree.

**How:** Take your holiday tree to the Allied/BFI Customer Service Center located at 42600 Boyce Road in Fremont.

*If you have any questions regarding pick-up or drop-off service, please call Allied/BFI at 657-3500.*

### 3. Boy Scouts of America Pick-up Service

**Who:** All Fremont residents.

**When:** Saturday, January 7, 2006 (one day only, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

**Cost:** \$5 for recyclable trees, \$10 for non-recyclable trees.

**How:** Please make arrangements (see information below) with the Boy Scouts to have your tree picked up outside your residence (apartments included). All pick-up orders must be placed by **Wednesday, January 4, 2006** using one of the following methods:

#### A. Mail in the coupon below.

**B. Call the City's Environmental Services Hotline to leave a phone registration message at 494-4580. The recorded message will prompt you for the necessary information.**

If you choose to have the Boy Scouts pick up your tree, please do not place it anywhere near the gutter or on the sidewalk. Instead, place your tree on your lawn, driveway or other designated outdoor area (visible from the street) that you arrange with the Boy Scouts.



Holiday Tree Recycling information is also available on the City's website at [www.fremont.gov/Environment](http://www.fremont.gov/Environment).



### Coupon for Boy Scout Pick-up (cut along dotted line)

**IMPORTANT:** Please include all information requested on the coupon.

Mail coupon to: BSA Holiday Trees, Mike Whittaker, 2356 Night Shade Lane, Fremont, CA 94539

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest Cross Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Tree: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to:

Boy Scouts of America and mark the following:

☐ \$5.00 recyclable tree

or

☐ \$10.00 non-recyclable tree



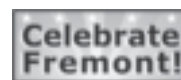
Would you be excited to discover great places to shop, dine and be entertained, right here in Fremont, plus have the chance to win cool prizes?

We thought so.

Coming soon



*Just a part of what's in store for Fremont's 50th Anniversary*



[www.celebratefremont.org](http://www.celebratefremont.org)